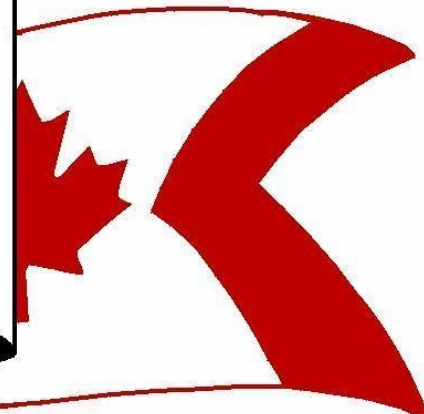




STATE of the STRAIT 2006



An aerial photograph of the Detroit River and Lake Erie basin. The land is covered in a false-color overlay, likely representing vegetation indices, with shades of green, yellow, and brown. The water of Lake Erie is a deep blue. The Detroit River is visible as a narrow waterway connecting Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair. The text "Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Basin Indicator Project" is overlaid in a large, bold, white serif font with a black outline.

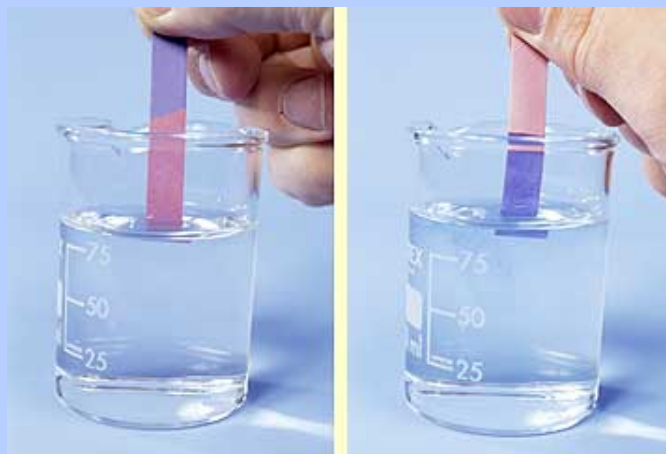
Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Basin Indicator Project

Webster's Definition of an Indicator:

in·di·ca·tor: Any device or apparatus that indicates the amount, condition, or position of something

Popular Indicator Example:

Litmus paper



Indicator Definition

- A measurable feature that provides info. on ecosystem status, quality & trends
- Clearly communicates ecosystem trends to policy makers and managers to aid in decision-making
- Measure progress toward management goals & objectives

3 Categories

Pressure – direct and indirect activities that impact the environment (especially human)

State – physical, chemical, or biological condition of the natural world and human health and welfare

Response – societal actions in policy or behavior undertaken to improve and protect the environment

Indicator Groups

- Land Use & Transportation/Population/
Human Health Indicators



- Fish/Invertebrate Indicators



- Wildlife and Habitat Indicators



- Contaminant Indicators

List of Indicators - 46 Total

SE MI Population

Canvasback

SE Michigan Land Use

Hawk Trends-HBMO/SMMR

Transportation Trends

CBC Rockwood/Detroit

Asthma

Watercelery

Lead Poisoning

Coastal Wetland Loss

Lake Sturgeon

Shoreline Hardening

Lake Whitefish

Phosphorus Concentration

Yellow Perch

Chloride Concentration

Walleye

Oil Spills

Burrowing Mayfly

Contaminants in Fish

Zebra Mussel

Contaminants in Gull Eggs

Bald Eagle

Contaminants in Sediments

Peregrine Falcon

Sediment Remediation

Status of Indicator Project

25 up on the website

8 in final editing

13 nearly complete

46 TOTAL

Project Purpose:

- Compile and analyze available, U.S. and Canadian, long-term data sets - 30+ years
- Translate & communicate indicator trends for policy-makers and managers
- Identify management next steps
- Identify data gaps & future indicators to comprehensively assess the state of this ecosystem

Projects Benefits :

- improve accessibility of data & information
- measure & celebrate success
- foster adaptive management
- build support for additional research
- promote stewardship through education



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